

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03405 162033Z

12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /087 W

----- 062665

R 162032Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1212

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 3405

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BEXP, TECH, AR, US

SUBJ: PARANA MEDIO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

REF: BA 2749

1. THERE FOLLOWS, FOR THE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION, A SUMMARY OF THE PREFEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE PARANA MEDIO PROJECTS DONE BY LAHMEYER INTERNATIONAL, CONSULTING ENGINEERS, UNDER A GERMAN-ARGENTINE TECHNICAL-ECONOMIC COOPERATION (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE") AGREEMENT. (LAHMEYER'S CONTRACT WAS WITH THE GERMAN BFE, RATHER THAN DIRECTLY WITH AGUA Y ENERGIA.) THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED BETWEEN JUNE AND NOVEMBER 1974. IT IS BEING POUCHED TO THE ARA COMMERCIAL COORDINATOR.

2. LAYMEYER DULY NOTES THAT THE PROJECT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD. THE REPORT HAS MANY CAVEATS TO THE EFFECT THAT IT IS VERY PRELIMINARY, BASED ON INSUFFICIENT DATA, CALCULATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE AND ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY, ETC. NONETHELESS, SAHMEYER SAYS THAT "SOME" OF THE REPORT CHAPTERS ARE SUITABLE FOR THE FEASIBILITY STAGE.

3. LAHMEYER HAD APPARENTLY RECOMMENDED EARLY IN THE STUDY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03405 162033Z

THAT ATTENTION BE CONCENTRATED ON ONLY ONE OF THE TWO POSSIBLE

DAM SITES, IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY. THIS WAS NOT DONE HOWEVER SO THAT RESULTS WERE DILUTED. (A SUBSEQUENT AGUA Y ENERGIA STUDY APPARENTLY SELECTED THE SOUTHERN DAM SITE FOR FIRST CONSTRUCTION).

4. IN REGARD TO THE EARTH DAMS, THE SOUTHERN DAM WOULD BE 20 KM LONG ACROSS THE RIVER AND EXTEND FOR 200 KM UP THE WEST BANK OF THE PARANA. TO KEEP COSTS DOWN, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE BUILT FROM LOCAL MATERIAL; USE SIMPLE CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES AND AN ECONOMIC COVERING FOR THE SIDE SLOPE. THE USE OF IMPERMEABLE MATERIALS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE (DUE TO COST). LAND EXPROPRIATION COSTS WOULD HAVE TO BE MINIMIZED.

5. THE EXACT LOCATION FOR THE SUTHERN DAM WAS NOT PICKED IN THE LAHMEYER STUDY, DUE TO INSUFFICIENT EFFORT. THE EXACT TYPE OF DAM AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS WAS SIMILARLY UNSPECIFIED, BECAUSE THIS DEPENDS GREATLY ON THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE EXACT LOCATION.

6. INEVITABLY, SAYS LAHMEYER, THE DESIGN MUST ENCOMPASS A RELATIVELY HIGH FILTRATION SCHEME WITH A LARGE ROCK DRAINAGE FOOTING AT THE BASE OF THE DOWNSTREAM SLOPE.

7. OVERTOPPING IS CITED AS A CRUCIAL DESIGN PROBLEM, WHICH IS THE CAUSE OF 40 PC OF WORLDWIDE EARTH DAM FAILURES AND IS A CLEAR DANGER AT PARANA MEDIO. IT CAN BE OVERCOME, BUT AT GREAT COST. THE PROBABILITY OF HIGH WINDS AT THE PARANA MEDIO SITES (UP TO 180 KM/HR IT IS STATED) LEADS TO A NEED TO CONSIDER WIND-INDUCED WAVES. AGAIN IT IS CLEAR THAT THE LAHMEYER STUDY WAS VERY PRELIMINARY IN THIS RESPECT.

8. THE LAHMEYER REPORT AS WE RECEIVED IT CONTAINS NO COST ESTIMATES. THERE IS A CAVEAT THAT PROJECT ECONOMICS ARE "COMPLETELY FULL OF UNCERTAINTIES". LAHMERY SUGGESTED THAT ARGENTINA COMPUTE ELECTRIC SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT COSTS WITHOUT AND WITH PARANA MEDIO CONSTRUCTION TO SEE WHAT THE COST/BENEFIT RATION OF THIS PROJECT MIGHT BE. FOR THE "WITHOUT" STUDY, THEY NATURALLY SUGGEST CONSIDERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AS AN ALTERNATIVE WHICH IS PROBABLY MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BUENOS 03405 162033Z

ECONOMIC THAN FOSSIL FUELED PLANTS.

9. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFO ON STATUS FOLLOWING VISIT TO SANTA FE.
HILL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENGINEERING, AGREEMENTS, HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), STUDIES, CONSULTANTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS03405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750174-0054
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750541/aaaableq.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BA 2749
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARANA MEDIO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
TAGS: ENRG, BEXP, TECH, AR, US, GE, AGUA Y ENERGIA, LAHMEYER INTERNATIONAL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006